



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

TRANS/WP.1/2002/38
10 October 2002

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
(Fortieth (special) session, 27-29 November 2002,
agenda item 2 (a))

**AMENDMENTS TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1968 CONVENTIONS
ON ROAD TRAFFIC AND ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS AND THE
1971 EUROPEAN AGREEMENTS SUPPLEMENTING THEM**

Alcohol

Transmitted by Hungary

Proposed modification to

- the Convention on Road Traffic done at Vienna on 8 November 1968
(E/CONF.56/16/Rev.1/Amend.1)

and to

- the European Agreement supplementing the Convention on Road Traffic opened for signature at Vienna on 8 November 1968, done at Geneva on 1 May 1971, Amendment 1
(E/ECE/813 - E/ECE/TRANS/567/Amend 1):

Ad Article 8 of the Convention (Drivers)

Paragraph 5 shall be read as figures in the European Agreement.

GE.02-24360

The additional paragraph to be inserted immediately after paragraph 5 of this article shall read as figures in the European Agreement with the following modifications:

In its last sentence “0.80 g per litre” shall be read “0.50 g per litre”, and
“0.40 mg per litre” shall be read “0.20 mg per litre”

Justification

At present, in several European countries, national legislation is in line with the proposed modifications (“zero pro mil rule”). In spite of this, alcohol-influenced driving is a principal cause of 15-40% of fatal accidents and injury accidents. In Hungary in 2000 this amounted to 11.0% and 12.0%, respectively.

Unfortunately, some would like to relax this “zero pro mil rule” and use as an argument international legislation. Should they succeed in raising the permissible maximum blood alcohol level, the number of road accidents and fatalities would dramatically increase.

In several countries the maximum permissible blood alcohol level has been reduced from 0.5 to 0.2 g/litre (Sweden, Norway).

Recent research in Austria, Finland and the USA has proved that even small blood alcohol content dramatically increases the risk of fatalities.

The Commission of the EU also recommends the 0.5 g per litre blood alcohol content limit (accepted on 17 January 2001).
